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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/500,991	02/15/2000	Frank Uhlmann	0652.2040000/REF	3282
7590 12/02/2003			EXAMINER	
Sterne Kessler Goldstein & Fox PLLC Attorneys at Law 1100 New York Avenue N W Suite 600 Washington, DC 20005-3934			FRONDA, CHRISTIAN L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1652	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/500,991

Applicant(s)

UHLMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Christian L Fronda

Art Unit

1652

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 07 October 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 6 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☒ A Notice of Appeal was filed on 07 October 2003. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☐ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 36,37,40,41,43,44 and 46-49.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 38, 42, 45, and 50-57.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet


✓ Continuation of 2. NOTE: Upon entry of the Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 dated 10/7/2003, claims 36, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44, and 46-49 would be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants' arguments filed 10/7/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' position is that the specification provides guidance for generating fragments and variants of SCC1 that can be cleaved by separin and assay for determining separin activity using SSC1. The Examiner disagrees for the reasons of record and for the following reasons stated below.

The specification provides only a single representative species of the SSC1 fragments and variants thereof as encompassed by these claims which is a human SCC1 protein substrate consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specification does not provide a written description of the entire genus of SSC1 fragments and variants thereof which can be used to assay for separin activity and such genus is expected to widely vary in sequence and structure. There is no disclosure of any particular structure to function/activity relationship in the single disclosed species. The specification also fails to describe additional representative species of these SSC1 fragments and variants thereof as encompassed by these claims by any identifying structural characteristics or properties for which no predictability of structure is apparent. Furthermore, providing guidance for generating fragments and variants of SCC1 does not provide a written description of the entire genus of SSC1 fragments and variants thereof as encompassed by the claims.

Given this lack of additional representative species as encompassed by the claims, Applicants have failed to sufficiently describe the claimed invention, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention..

Continuation of 10. Other: Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/126,767 filed 3/3/1999..


FOUNTAINHEAD TECHNOLOGY
SUPERVISORY EXAMINER
10/12/2003